

2 Sept.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

William Larrabee,

-GOVERNOR OF IOWA,-

DELIVERED

AT HIS INAUGURATION,



At JANUARY 14, 1886.

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## INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

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### FELLOW CITIZENS:

With gratitude to the people of the State for the confidence which they reposed in me by committing to my charge their highest trust, and with a deep sense of the great responsibility that I assume in accepting it, I invoke the blessing of Almighty God and the support of all good citizens of this commonwealth, to aid me in the proper discharge of the duties of my office.

We have every reason to rejoice over the continued prosperity of our people and the healthy condition of our State affairs, and it behooves me here to acknowledge the great obligations under which we are placed to our worthy retiring Executive for his devotion to duty and his unremitting exertions to promote the welfare of the people.

Our ancestors, the early settlers of the colonies, keenly realizing the oppressive intolerance of their native government, and deeply imbued with the spirit of opposition to its iniquitous and even vicious customs, left their mother country and established here a body politic upon the basis of justice, equality and self-government.

There is, by the law of nature, an intimate relation between the policies and fates of governments. Tyranny and wrong inevitably lead to suffering and decay, while moderation and right lead to happiness and prosperity. Any nation disregarding the eternal rule of justice will sooner or later pay the penalty for the transgression; and the longer the delay in correcting the evil, the severer will

be the judgment. Our own nation has proved no exception to this law. The wisest among the founders of our government well realized the enormity of the evils resulting from the institution of slavery, yet, moved by an extreme desire to obtain "a more perfect union,"—they consented to perpetuate, or rather failed to eradicate, an evil which the moral sense of the majority condemned as a crying sin against humanity. For over eighty years the existence of slavery on American soil belied the proudest passage of our great charter of rights, until Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation and the War of the Rebellion freed the most sacred document of American liberty from the charge of being a mockery. Brilliant as were the deeds of our noble sons during the struggle for the preservation of the Union and the recognition of human rights, it took four long years to destroy a system which for a century we had nurtured.

#### AN HONEST BALLOT.

Yet our political mission was not ended with the abolishment of slavery. In compliance with the principles of political equality, as announced by our fathers in the Declaration of Independence, it became necessary to endow over four millions of freedmen, under the protection of our fundamental law, with all the rights of American citizens. It is therefore a duty which we owe to ourselves as well as to the cause of justice, to secure to them the full enjoyment of those rights, and especially the right to cast an honest ballot and to have it honestly counted.

Many of the freedmen in the States which rose in rebellion are debarred from the exercise of this franchise. An election there is too often but a farce, and a fraud practiced upon the ignorant and helpless. The declared result of such an election is only the will of those people who twenty-five years ago forced their States into secession, and who still maintain the right to govern, regardless of

the will of the majority. The spirit that prompts and encourages the continuance of this evil is the same that demanded its perpetuation and fostered its growth; and it is a question for this generation to determine whether such a spirit shall be permitted to dominate, or whether the principles of a truly republican government shall prevail.

The fifteenth amendment to our National Constitution leaves no doubt as to the right of the Federal Government to employ such measures as may be necessary to remove this cancer from the vitals of our political system. The people of Iowa are as much interested in the correction of these abuses as they are in the correction of acts of injustice committed within their own borders.

We should not permit the State Rights heresy to again obtain control of our national government. All frauds upon the freedom and purity of the ballot-box, whether committed at the dictation of the slave barons in South Carolina and Mississippi, by the aid of eminent jurists and statesmen in Delaware, or by the cunning of the political brigands of Chicago and Cincinnati, concerns us equally in Iowa, and will continue to concern us until this flagrant wrong is righted.

Let no one be blinded by party prejudice. There is no more important question pressing upon the public mind at the present time; and all patriotic citizens should unite in the demand that these outrages upon the rights of millions of freemen shall cease.

The successful attempts to defile the purity of the ballot-box elsewhere already appear to exert their influence in our own State, for indications of illegitimate voting are by no means wanting in our larger cities, and appear to demand a revision of our election laws.

#### AMERICAN POLICY OF PROTECTION.

The policy of protection to American labor and industries was uppermost in the minds of the fathers of our republic. This is attested by



the fact that the second bill enacted into law under our National Constitution was for the raising of revenue and "for the encouragement and protection of manufactures." Adherence to this policy has always been followed by increased compensation for labor and by general prosperity; a departure from it, by reduced wages, discontent and a depression of all industrial interests. There may perhaps have been one exception to this general rule, when well-known factors intervened to suspend for a time its operation.

Under this beneficial policy our nation has during the last twenty-five years made marvelous progress, and has grown in all the elements that contribute to the greatness and happiness of a civilized people, notwithstanding the great destruction occasioned by four years of civil war. More than three-fourths of the total expense of the war has already been paid, and previous to the present management of federal affairs the close of each fiscal year witnessed a remarkable reduction of our bonded indebtedness.

A continuance of this policy, which protects not only American manufacturers by imposing duties on imported merchandise, but American laborers as well by prohibiting the importation of Chinese and pauper laborers from Europe, will soon remove every vestige of our national debt.

#### PENSIONS.

It would, moreover, enable us to repay, though inadequately, a debt of gratitude and justice to our Nation's defenders. We should be more liberal to those soldiers who are entitled to pensions under existing laws, and the time is near at hand when a pension should also be granted to every soldier and sailor who staked his life for the preservation of the Union. Justice demands this, since there is scarcely a soldier whose health is not more or less impaired in consequence of the hardships of the war, while the increasing difficulty of procuring

such proof as is now required by law is working more and more injustice.

Under the American policy of protection all this may be accomplished and national prosperity be continued, while the adoption of the British policy of free trade would inevitably lead to national disaster, reducing the laborers of the United States to a condition resembling that to which English free trade and English oppression have reduced the people of Ireland.

To maintain this policy and increase the demand for our manufactures, all reasonable efforts should be made to extend our commercial intercourse with other countries, and especially Mexico, South and Central America.

#### TAXATION AND CURRENCY.

There is no part of the administration of the government that requires such extensive information and thorough knowledge of the principles of political economy as the subject of taxation and currency, and any change should be discouraged that will increase the burdens of the debtor class, or contribute to industrial depression.

Nothing is more important than to have a currency of stable value. A government cannot do a more cruel thing than to permit a fluctuating currency. It gives unreasonable advantage to the sagacious and enterprising monied few over the industrious and uninformed masses. Every change or new regulation affecting values of property presents a new harvest for those who foresee its inevitable consequences.

#### CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

From the first organization of our national government until the close of the administration of John Quincy Adams the practice of removing federal officers for partisan reasons was comparatively unknown.

With President Jackson's administration, however, was inaugur-

ated that degrading system which makes spoils of public offices and distributes them as rewards for party service.

This pernicious custom was continued to a greater or less extent, until the people, weary of its evil influence, demanded a correction of this abuse, and Congress in response adopted what is known as the Civil Service Reform Act. Wholesome results would doubtless have followed the conscientious enforcement of this law, but its provisions have been completely disregarded both in letter and in spirit by the introduction of the newly-created crime of offensive partisanship.

A system of espionage and intrigue which encourages a vile and inquisitorial scrutiny into the personal affairs of public officers, and confers upon congressmen the questionable honor of acting as government detectives, is repulsive to every honest American, and any attempt to shield such a system under the pretense of reform is an insult to American intelligence.

#### THE INDUSTRIAL QUESTION.

The industrial question, involving the relations between labor and capital, the rate of wages, and the proper distribution of wealth, is by no means a new one, nor does it require the application of new principles for its solution, but rather the reviving of new confidence in old virtues.

We must maintain for the laborer larger compensation for his work than is realized in other countries, and should eradicate some evils which, though yet in their infancy, are constantly growing upon us and threaten much danger in the future. The time is past when physical force should be relied upon for the settlement of these questions. Justice and reason should govern the capitalist and the laborer. Strikes and lockouts are measures too wasteful and expensive in a civilization having wants so urgent and manifold as ours. It is as proper and perhaps as essential for labor to organize as for capital, but as organized capital under the control of inefficient man-



agers is soon wasted, so will the benefits of labor organizations be lost if their control falls into the hands of selfish and designing demagogues.

It is a misfortune that trivial, and sometimes imaginary, evils are magnified, and used by unscrupulous and narrow-minded politicians for the purpose of exciting the prejudices and exasperating the passions of well-meaning people.

Evils will ever grow out of the inevitable changes of society as our population increases in density and as wealth accumulates. It is our duty as intelligent and honorable men to meet these questions as they arise, and disposing of them with a spirit of fairness and justice, prevent the noisy agitator from making them subservient to his base schemes of personal advantage and party interest. Such a person is an enemy to the best interests of the people, and a clog upon the efforts of those who by wise and beneficent measures are striving to promote and meliorate the condition of mankind.

Boards of arbitration for the adjustment and settlement of disputes between labor and capital, and especially those peculiar to the mining interests, have been adopted in other States with the best results; and I believe that such a course would also prove beneficial to us.

Yet while everything should be done on the part of the State to protect the rights, and improve the social condition of the laborer, he should never forget that honesty, diligence, intelligence, frugality and sobriety are the only trustworthy means by which success and permanent prosperity can be obtained, and that all theories of securing the rewards of those virtues without rigidly practicing them are, and always will be, fallacious. Every laborer should aim to obtain a competency, and the State should render him all proper assistance in his efforts in that direction, both by removing from his path the serpent that tempts him to intemperance and prodigality, and by encouraging the establishment of such institutions as will train him to a sys-

tematic and economical management of his affairs. Unfortunately the people of Iowa are less proficient in the art of saving, than that of earning.

#### SAVINGS BANKS.

The experience of Europe and the older portions of our country has shown that a system of reliable savings banks under the strict supervision of the State is one of the most potent agents to promote the thrift and improve the condition of our working classes.

But few have an accurate conception of the importance of these institutions in our own country. The deposits of the savings banks of the State of New York are little less than five hundred million dollars. New England shows to still better advantage. According to the report of the Comptroller of the Currency the aggregate of savings bank deposits in those States is now \$492,373,407.

The total population of New England in 1880 was 4,010,529, and the present number of deposit accounts at the savings banks is 1,460,185, which shows 36 per cent. of the entire population to be depositors. The average amount of each account is \$337.21; the average per capita \$122.77, or an average of \$613.85 for every family of five persons. Taking the State of Massachusetts alone, we find still better results, the deposits being \$262,720,147 in a total population of 1,783,085, or \$147.30 per capita and \$736.50 for every family of five persons.

When we remember that these vast sums have been accumulated by the savings of people of moderate means—the acceptance of larger deposits being prohibited by law—one can realize what the persistent practice of frugality and economy may accomplish.

Improvvidence is the characteristic feature of the savage; the accumulation of property, the first step toward civilization. It is no less true that the stability of a state decreases in the same ratio in which the number of its paupers increases; and that state has the

best guarantee for internal peace and prosperity which has the largest proportions of well-to-do citizens. The state should therefore incite the laborer to obtain pecuniary independence, by providing for him places of deposit, where his small surplus earnings are received and safely kept and where he may within a few years accumulate a sum far beyond his expectation, which will prove a comfort to him and often a great blessing to those he leaves behind.

For the purpose of inculcating these principles in the minds of the young, some of our best teachers have introduced the savings bank into their schools with good results.

#### EDUCATION.

The most powerful lever of progress is education. If it is true, as I hold it to be, that ignorance, poverty and crime are intimately related, it is the duty of every state to educate.

In a republic, where every man is an elector and every elector is a sovereign, having in the election of his legislators and his rulers equal voice with the best, the wealthiest and the wisest, illiteracy and ignorance of the masses become a national calamity. A republic can survive war, famine and pestilence, but it cannot survive the intelligence of its people.

The demands of our people for a high educational standard is evinced by the heavy taxes voluntarily imposed upon their property for this purpose. Yet while all good and intelligent citizens fully realize the importance of mental and moral culture and require their children to avail themselves of the educational facilities within their reach, there are also those who through ignorance, vice or negligence deprive the children under their control of the benefits of the school, thus defeating the very purpose for which the free school system was created. For the protection of such unfortunate children and the interests of society, the adoption of a compulsory education law is imperatively demanded and should be no longer delayed. It is a

severe law that requires the widow's home to be sold, to erect a school-house and employ a teacher for the benefit of her neighbor's children, and we should certainly grant the right to her to demand that those children avail themselves of the opportunities procured at such a sacrifice.

Teachers should develop the moral no less than the mental faculties of the children under their charge and should endeavor to foster in them such habits as will best secure their future welfare. Teachers should by law be required to instruct their pupils as to the injurious effects of the habitual use of alcohol and narcotics upon the system.

In view of the fact that about half of the taxes levied in this State go to the support of schools, prudent management of public funds requires that no one should be employed as a teacher who is not thoroughly qualified for his duties. Our State Normal School is doing noble work in fitting young men and women for the vocation of teaching, and the interests of our schools require that a hearty support be given to this institution.

The Agricultural College, through its graduates, exerts a most wholesome influence over the agricultural and kindred interests of the State, and should not be allowed to deteriorate either in tone or usefulness.

It should be the pride of all true friends of education to make our State University equal to the best in the land.

It is now divested of all features which once subjected it to the charge of being a local institution, and as fast as well-matured plans for extending its sphere of action can be adopted, adequate appropriations should be made for their consummation.

It is a matter of deep regret throughout the State, that the influences surrounding this institution are such as to weaken its claim upon public favor.

To enlarge the usefulness of the University, it is as important to improve the moral atmosphere of its surroundings as its curriculum.

The people of the State will never rest content until the city on which was bestowed the trust and favor of holding our highest seat of learning has become a model of moral and social refinement.

#### CORPORATIONS.

Division and combination of labor, of energy and of means are the main elements of all civilization.

Private corporations, a natural outgrowth, are among the principal factors of the great progress which our age has witnessed.

Their creation is permitted by the State for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the people, and their action should be kept strictly within the sphere for which they were created. The authority of the State to regulate and control corporations is now firmly established by the decisions of the courts and should be exercised with firmness, intelligence and discretion.

Railroad and insurance companies as well as banks are now required by law to give publicity to their business. Such requirement should be extended to other corporations doing business in the State, and litigations with them should be kept in our State courts as far as practicable.

#### RAILROADS.

It has been the policy of this State to encourage the construction of railroads. The wisdom of such a policy is evinced by the rapid growth of the system and the great benefits arising from it to the various interests of our people.

We have at the present time over 7,520 miles of railway in operation, yet our people will hardly be satisfied until every township in the State is intersected by the rail.

Many perplexing questions are constantly arising between individuals and the management of railroad companies.

After experimenting with much profit in past years as to the proper



method of dealing with them, we adopted the commissioner system. It has fully answered our expectations, the board having rendered valuable services to the people by vigilant and careful attention to their grievances.

Largely through the efforts of this board the rates of transportation have been materially reduced.

Many differences are now settled with little or no expense to the persons aggrieved, and the individual is no longer compelled to resort to the courts to secure the correction of abuses and impositions. Friction between the people and the railroads is less and less, each year, as the work of the commission is better understood.

The experience of all other States which have adopted this system confirms the opinion that such a course of dealing with railways is preferable to any other yet known, and there can be no doubt that the adoption of a National Board of Railroad Commissioners would be the proper measure to regulate inter-state transportation.

The improvement of our internal water-courses, including that of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers, and the construction of the proposed Hennepin Canal would prove great equalizers of rates of transportation.

#### TELEGRAPH.

The success which has attended the postal telegraph system in those countries which have adopted it would seem to warrant its introduction into the United States.

Until that can be accomplished, rates should be fixed by law, to protect the public against the present unreasonable charges. Twenty-five cents is a sufficient compensation for the transmission of a message not exceeding twenty words, between any two points in our State.

The present short-sighted policy of exorbitant charges can only be justified by the necessity of earning dividends on watered stock.

## INSURANCE.

The insurance business of the State has grown to great proportions, about four million dollars being now annually paid in premiums.

The losses paid during the last year amounted to less than \$1,600,000, thus leaving in the hands of the insurance companies over \$2,400,000 as gross profits.

Allowing \$400,000 to the companies for taxes and contingent expenses, there would be left to them \$2,000,000 for the labor performed. This sum would employ at an annual salary of \$1,000 each, 2,000 insurance officials in the State, or say twenty in each county. Compare this with the management of our county affairs. Two officers, the treasurer and auditor, transact the entire financial business of the county at an expense not exceeding \$5,000 per annum.

In view of the intelligence of the people of this State, further comments seem unnecessary, though I am well aware that sophistical arguments will be resorted to, to counteract the force of this statement.

It would seem that Iowa capital and Iowa enterprise should be able to insure Iowa property as safely as non-resident companies. Home companies, being entirely under our control, should be encouraged to do this business at a reasonable rate of compensation. The character of the property in our State is such as should entitle the insured to lower rates than are at present obtained. Many abuses are perpetrated upon unsuspecting policy-holders, who only learn of the imposition when it is too late to correct it. Home companies are more likely to do justice to their patrons, being nearer to them, and feeling therefore a greater sense of responsibility.

Owing to the growth of this business, the Auditor of State is greatly overburdened with work. I therefore recommend that a separate department for the supervision of the insurance companies be established and placed in charge of a competent official, to whom might also be entrusted the examination of the banks. The present

seems an opportune time to make this change, which has been repeatedly recommended by my predecessors.

#### AGRICULTURE.

Iowa is pre-eminently adapted to agricultural pursuits, and the true source of her greatness lies in her healthy climate and the capacity of her soil to produce those staples most necessary for the sustenance of mankind. We came into the Union as the twenty-ninth in order of time, and stand eleventh as to population, yet rank first in the family of States in the gross product of their great cereal—corn; first in the value of domestic animals, neat cattle, horses and swine. The annual value of the products of our soil and dairy and the increase of our stock equals that of the total cotton crop of the United States. The mines of California and Colorado have never been half as rich in their output as the prairie mines of Iowa, which have the additional advantage over the former that with proper care they will never become exhausted. We should strive to understand the character and capacity of our soil, and engage in that kind of agriculture which is best adapted to the production of the greatest wealth. It would be much to our advantage to abandon the shipping of grain, and to direct our attention to stock-raising and the dairy.

All reasonable encouragement should be given to the improvement of our stock. More stringent laws should be immediately enacted to guard against the introduction or spreading of contagious diseases of cattle and swine, even to the extent that arbitrary measures might be taken to stamp them out when found within our borders. Hog cholera alone has probably caused a loss of no less than a million dollars during the last year.

Our dairy interests should no less receive the attention of the legislator. The present law against adulterating the products of the dairy, which is practically inoperative, should be so amended as to insure to our dairymen ample protection. This great industry, which

promises yet to become one of the most important in the State, entitles it to more consideration than it has hitherto received.

#### TITLES OF SETTLERS ON PUBLIC LANDS.

Mention should here also be made of the doubtful legality of the titles to lands in dispute between settlers and railway companies. The importance to a farmer of a clear title to his lands requires that the utmost should be done on the part of the State to protect the rights of those settlers.

#### MANUFACTURES.

Good opportunities offer here for investment in manufacturing enterprises, and capital judiciously invested is quite certain to prove remunerative. We should promote manufactures, since success in these interests will greatly enhance the value of our agricultural products. Diversified industries are necessary for a State to insure the highest degree of prosperity.

Notwithstanding the great productiveness of our fertile soil, we should not rely solely upon it, but should fully develop all the natural resources of the State, and with our manifold advantages for manufacturing, this branch of industry should by no means be neglected.

#### COMMERCE.

Closely allied are our mercantile interests, and what has been said concerning the promotion of manufactures is also applicable to them. The efforts of our Board of Railroad Commissioners to sustain the wholesale business of the State against outside encroachments should be seconded, if necessary, by appropriate legislation.

#### JUDICIARY.

Recently adopted amendments to our State Constitution imply a revision of our judicial system. Much diversity of opinion, of course, will exist upon a question of such importance.



I would recommend the abolition of the circuit court, the establishment of a county court for probate and such other business as may be desirable to entrust to it, the increase of the number of district judges, the election of the judges of the Supreme Court for a term of ten years, and their ineligibility for a second term. A proper division of the business among these courts will render our judicial system both more harmonious and economical, and insure a speedier enforcement of the law.

#### WOMAN SUFFRAGE.

A large number of our best people favor the extension of suffrage to women. Experience is the only proper guide to direct us in solving this important and complex problem of social science.

Social reforms cannot be planned out upon theoretical grounds alone, but practical information as well must be brought into requisition to insure a proper solution of such a problem. It is safer for us to make experimental trials than to at once commit ourselves to universal suffrage. If thought advisable to take a step in that direction, it would be well to experiment by first conferring authority upon women to vote at municipal or school elections.

It is clear to me that one thing is of vastly more importance to them than the ballot, and that is to acquire and to hold in their own name and right a larger share of property. This is essential to secure their real independence.

#### LESS ELECTIONS.

There appears to be a general demand that our Constitution should be so amended as to require a State election to be held only once in two years, and it seems to me that the preliminary steps to accomplish it should be at once taken.

It is a well-established fact that as the electoral franchise in a population is increased, and thereby the responsibility of the individual



voter is decreased, less attention is given to elections by those best qualified to exercise the franchise. It is but reasonable to infer that a similar rule would apply to the frequency of elections, and that the oftener they occur the less interest is taken in them by the voters. It is a duty as well as a privilege to vote, and elections should be held at such intervals and at such times of the year as will secure the best attendance at the polls. They should neither be too frequent nor too rare, and biennial elections are probably a happy medium.

#### MILITIA.

We should not overlook the great importance of maintaining a small corps of well-trained militia ready for service at any time of need, even at the risk of disturbing a few over-nervous people by the fear of bayonet rule in time of peace. The expenditure necessary for this purpose is trifling indeed, when compared with the advantages derived from having such a force always at command. It is the part of wisdom to anticipate danger and prepare for it. The hope of impunity is a very strong incitement to sedition, and the dread of punishment a proportionately strong discouragement.

#### SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' HOME.

When our Nation was shattered and in twain, and the Government under the noble Lincoln cried for help to save its life, Iowa responded promptly and bountifully with her blood and her treasures. Over seventy-five thousand of her brave sons marched to the field of battle, and their record is so proud and glorious that every loyal Iowan should treasure it as a rich inheritance of the State. Over twenty thousand sleep their last sleep, and but a few years more will elapse when the army of the dead will out-number the army of the living.

Many of those who survive have become disabled and cannot provide for themselves such comforts in their declining years as our appreciative people desire them to enjoy. It seems, therefore, a fit

tribute to them, and to the memory of the dead, that while the grateful people of this country are about to erect monuments to the illustrious Commander who has lately gone to his final rest, Iowa should erect and maintain a home for her disabled soldiers and sailors, one that will at once serve as a home for the living and a monument for the dead.

#### THE PROHIBITORY LAW.

Alcohol has been known from time immemorial. Like gunpowder and dynamite, it is beneficial to man when properly used and for rightful purposes; like them it is terribly destructive when improperly used.

Civilized nations have suffered greater evils from the use of alcoholic beverages than were contained in the fabled box of Pandora. Notwithstanding our great advancements, a large proportion of our people have not yet succeeded in acquiring sufficient control over their appetites to make it safe for them to be permitted the use of alcohol except under stringent restrictions and careful supervision of the legal authorities.

The monstrous train of evils growing out of the use of alcohol, or rather its abuse, is attracting more and more each year the attention of the intelligent and thoughtful people not only of this country but of the whole civilized world.

The magnitude of these evils can hardly be overstated. This is admitted by all; that stringent measures should be adopted for their correction is also admitted by all. Yet how to effectually remedy them is a question still to be solved. The remedy is not as manifest as the evil.

The person who has entire confidence in his remedy is either blinded by self-sufficiency or is ignorant of the many difficulties attending the solution of this problem.

Many experiments to check the excessive use of alcoholic liquors

have been made, and various remedies have been tried, but the success of no one of them has yet been such as to prove conclusively that it is better than some other remedy; and this is therefore still a subject for further experimentation.

Questions of this kind require for their final solution calm and cold reasoning on clearly recognized principles and the banishment of sentiment.

The enormity of the evil should prompt unanimity of action among those desiring to correct it. No such unanimity is attainable unless deference is paid to the will of the majority of those who interest themselves in the cause, and whatever remedy is agreed upon by the majority should be heartily and earnestly sustained by all. The dram-shop should never again have a legal existence in Iowa. This much should be apparent to all.

It is estimated by those familiar with this subject that prior to the adoption of our present law twenty-five million dollars were annually expended for intoxicating liquors in the State. This amount is equal to two-thirds of the total receipts of our 7,520 miles of railroad. According to this estimate it is safe to say that the profits to those engaged in the liquor traffic were greater than the combined profits earned in Iowa by all its corporations.

The saloon is the educational institution which takes no vacation or recess and where the lowest and most pernicious political doctrines are taught. Its thousands of graduates may be found in all positions of wretchedness and disgrace, and are the most successful candidates for our poorhouses and penitentiaries. It is the bank where money, time, strength, manliness, self-control and happiness are deposited to be lost, where drafts are drawn on the widows and orphans, and where dividends are paid only to his Satanic Majesty. Let it perish.

For thirty years our statutes prohibited the sale, as a beverage, of strong liquors, and permitted municipalities to prohibit or license

the sale of wine and beer. Those engaged in the traffic, however, invited by the persistent demand of their patrons and political allies for more freedom of trade, constantly disregarded the restrictions imposed upon them by law. Their course provoked such of our citizens as were devoting their best energies to the advancement of the temperance cause, to demand entire prohibition of the sale of all intoxicating liquors.

A proposition to amend our State Constitution for this purpose was submitted and agreed to by two General Assemblies, and then referred, at a non partisan election, to the people, who ratified it by a majority of nearly thirty thousand votes. At least three-fourths of the non-voting population of the State also favored the amendment. However, on account of informality in its adoption by the General Assembly the Supreme Court of the State set it aside.

In response to these repeated demands and in accordance with the theory that ours is a government of, for and by the people, our present law for the prevention of intemperance, pauperism and crime was enacted by the last General Assembly, and took effect on the fourth day of July, 1884.

For several months the law was generally complied with throughout the State, and continued to be quite well observed, until judicial and other officers connived at, and even openly encouraged, the violation of the law. In several instances appeals were taken and the cases transferred from the State to the Federal courts, and these cases are still undecided.

Under these embarrassments those especially interesting themselves in enforcing the law have relaxed their efforts, waiting for the decision of the courts. The opponents of the law of course take advantage of this opportunity and endeavor to force a conclusion upon the public mind that the law is a failure. This is unfair and premature. The law has not yet proved a failure, nor has it proved



an entire success. Reason and justice dictate such action as will give the law a fair trial. A fair trial implies not only that the law should remain upon our statute books for a sufficient time to test its constitutionality and the rights of parties before the courts, but that an honest and determined effort should be made to secure obedience to it.

It is the duty of all good people who desire the welfare of the State, and especially is it the duty of those who advocated the adoption of the law with so much confidence, to make a faithful and earnest effort to prove its efficiency.

Stability is an essential of good government. A continual change even of good measures is inconsistent with prudence and every prospect of success. The individual who is vacillating in his methods, or carries on his business without any definite plan, is soon marked by prudent people as likely to become a speedy victim to his own inconstancy. Self-respect imposes the obligation upon us to ascertain whether the saloon and the Liquor League are stronger than the State Government, and whether these elements shall be permitted to treat the laws of Iowa with contempt. The question now is not between prohibition and license, but whether law or lawlessness shall rule. In any event, whatever may become necessary to do must not be done at the dictation of the enemies of law and good order.

True Americans are law-abiding, and recognize the right of the majority to rule, and the duty of the minority to yield obedience. In the large cities and in communities where public sentiment is opposed to the law, it is openly and flagrantly violated. The honor of the State compels us to vindicate its majesty. Private individuals and private contributions cannot be relied upon to enforce a law which the ill-gotten money of the saloon and the partisan intrigue of the demagogue constantly aid to defy.

It is, under such circumstances, clearly the duty of the State to



come to the rescue of the individual. Public funds should be appropriated and, if necessary, the whole power of the State should be brought into requisition, to secure obedience. Whatever authority may be vested in me will be unhesitatingly exercised.

The law as it affects the business of druggists and those authorized to sell intoxicating liquors should be carefully considered, and any of its provisions found not to be in harmony with the purposes of the law should be amended.

There is a proper demand for alcoholic liquors, which should be supplied, and those authorized to sell such liquors should neither be subjected to unreasonable and vexatious restrictions nor harassed by unjust and obnoxious requirements. It would be an unfortunate policy that would drive competent and conscientious druggists out of an honorable and legitimate business.

SENATORS AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

There exists no more responsible trust than that of the legislator. The duties before you are grave and earnest. Good laws are the best legacy which one generation can leave to another, and on your action may depend the woes and blessings of millions yet unborn. You were not sent here to serve your own interests, or those of any party, or class, or sect, but solely the interests and the welfare of the State. You should never forget that the people are the source of all power, and that while you make the laws for them as their representatives, a moral and intelligent public sentiment should be law to you.

You should place the burdens of taxation equitably upon the shoulders of all, and, while making sufficient appropriations for the constantly growing demands of the State, should dispose of the public funds with the utmost scrupulousness and vigilance. You should be prudent managers for the State, carefully regulating its expense by its income, and should refuse to yield when besieged to make appro-

priations for purposes to which to give State aid would be beyond your legitimate sphere of action. The various State institutions have a claim on your sympathy and liberality, and should receive that generous support to which their cause entitles them.

I cannot close without endorsing the timely recommendations made by my predecessor regarding your legislative action. Assuring you of my hearty co-operation in your arduous duties, I earnestly hope that our united exertions may be crowned with success, and that we may deliver the State to our successors even more vigorous and prosperous than we have received it out of the hands of those who have preceded us.

May we all be guided in the performance of our duties by wisdom and justice, ever remembering that "righteousness exalteth a nation."

WILLIAM LARRABEE.







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